

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title Water and Sanitation Technician

Assignment Modality Standard in-country volunteer

Assignment Number BOU 41956

Country Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

Location Arawa

Partner Organisation World Vision Papua New Guinea

Duration 12 Months

Sustainable Development Goals



Business Development Partner



1. Partner Organisation Overview

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision started working in PNG (WVPNG) in 1983 and uses an integrated approach to deliver in its core programming sectors of Education, Health, Livelihoods, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, Social Cohesion and Peace building.

WVPNG's programming focus is spread across 12 of PNG's 22 provinces, with field offices and staff in the 6 Provinces of National Capital District, Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB), Morobe, Madang, Western and Southern Highlands Provinces; as well as through partners in another six provinces across the country.

WVPNG works to increase access to sustainable clean drinking water; improve sanitation and hygiene via Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), Participatory Hygiene & Sanitation Transformation (PAST), Healthy Islands concept and WASH facilities installation. WVPNG also strengthens governance capacity to design, finance, deliver and sustain inclusive, resilient WASH services.

VSA has worked with WVPNG in Bougainville for a number of years across a range of thematic areas including health and agriculture.

2. Assignment Overview

WVPNG has recently acquired funding to deliver a new WASH project to improve access to safe, adequate, and sustainable water supplies in South Bougainville. The project will involve construction of new WASH facilities, along with an increased focus on good WASH practice and awareness.

WVPNG has previously delivered water and sanitation projects in Bougainville, the most recent being 2019-2021. While the last project was successful, a key area identified for improvement was need to raise capacity of local staff to ensure that water and sanitation infrastructure constructed is fit for purpose and meets the needs of local communities. The current WVPNG Bougainville Area Programme (BAP) staff have gaps in their technical water and sanitation knowledge, and would benefit from an opportunity to build their capacity.

A well-suited volunteer, with experience in water and sanitation, engineering, or plumbing, will play a key role in building the capacity of local WVPNG staff, in turn assisting to ensure high quality water and sanitation outcomes in Bougainville. Given that Bougainville is a priority location for WVPNG, and water and sanitation is a key thematic area for WVPNG, a VSA volunteer will help ensure future water and sanitation projects in Bougainville are delivered to a high standard by local staff.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

The assignment goal is for the volunteer to make a strong contribution towards building the capacity and confidence of World Vision's Bougainville team to ensure that water and sanitation facilities are successfully constructed, fit for purpose, and well suited for use by the local communities.

Outcome 1

To build the technical water and sanitation capacity of World Vision WASH team to ensure they are confident in the construction of high quality water and sanitation facilities

Outputs that would contribute to this outcome are:

- Support design activities to ensure that water and sanitation facilities are fit for purpose, and functional in the specific community they will serve
- Ensure construction of systems meets with design specifications and accepted best practice, through mentoring and training of the relevant World Vision staff.
- Support with visits to project sites
- Support procurement of materials which align with designs, and are suitable for use

Outcome 2

To support the World Vision Bougainville team to ensure the project outcomes are achieved

Outputs that would contribute to this outcome are:

- Mentor the project manager in necessary project management skills
- Support in building the monitoring capacity of the project manager and team staff

Outcome 3

To support BAP staff to ensure that the water and sanitation facilities are taken ownership of by local communities, with ongoing self-maintenance and investment

Outputs that would contribute to this outcome are:



- Where necessary provide training or mentoring to staff on maintenance requirements for water and sanitation facilities
- Support BAP staff to ensure that necessary consideration is given to the sustainability of the project, and the future use of facilities by individual communities.

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will be placed to work within the World Vision Bougainville Water and Sanitation Project team on a daily basis. This will provide the core opportunity for shared learning and capacity building of the team through one-on-one mentoring, coaching, observation of the volunteer by team members, possible internal trainings facilitated by the volunteer. The volunteer will report to the project manager, while also working with the World Vision PNG WASH lead based in Port Moresby.

There may also be scope for the volunteer to assist the World Vision Bougainville Water and Sanitation Project team in building capacity of local partners such as the Bougainville Government, and the sub-region WASH groups.

The volunteer will also be a key participant in the World Vision Bougainville team's monthly reflection sessions, which are an opportunity for staff to come together at the end of each month to specifically reflect on learnings from the past month, as well as plan for the coming month.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description on arrival in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically reviews and reflects on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection Criteria/Position Requirements

Professional Specifications

Essential

- Bachelor's degree in engineering, plumbing certificate/experience, a Bachelors in construction management or a related field
- Experience in practical plumbing delivery or engineering projects
- Experience of working collaboratively in a cross-cultural setting
- Experience of mentoring or coaching staff to build capacity

Desirable

- Experience in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) projects in a developing country, including;
- The design and construction of WASH facilities
- The operations and maintenance of WASH facilities
- Experience in project management, including programme planning, budgeting, and monitoring
- Experience working with a diverse range of stakeholders towards a common goal



Personal Specification

Essential

- Community-minded, with a willingness to learn about, and respect Bougainvillean values and protocols
- A willingness to learn the local language (Tok Pisin)
- A self-sufficient and self-motivating attitude
- The ability to adapt to changing situations, and be flexible to change where factors may be beyond your control
- Willingness to travel to remote locations by and work in rural environments

Desirable

- Experience working and living in a developing country

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

Autonomous Region of Bougainville – Papua New Guinea

Bougainville is a warm and vibrant Autonomous Region within Papua New Guinea (PNG). It is the easternmost region of PNG and sits on the border with the Solomon Islands. Going back many decades, the region has a strong sense of identity and culture, that is distinct from other parts of PNG, and something that Bougainvillians are very proud of.

The region was been passed between colonial powers for many years, until being passed from the Australian-administered Territory of New Guinea, to the newly independent nation of Papua New Guinea in 1975. By this time the open-cast copper and gold mine at Panguna has started operation, which was one of the largest in the world at the time. The mine quickly came to account for nearly half of PNG's export revenue, underlining the economic importance of Bougainville. However, the mine brought significant environmental and social issues that had not been seen in Bougainville before. By the late 1980s, what begun as a low-scale sabotage campaign to bring about dialogue on compensation for landowners, descended into a complete breakdown in law and order, accompanied by the closure of the mine. In the decade that followed, The Bougainville Crisis became complex in nature, with elements of internal conflict emerging alongside the desire for independence. The signing of the Peace Agreement in 2001 brought the conflict to an end, and in the years since Bougainville has been steadily rebuilding its public and private sectors.

While Bougainville does still have its challenges as it continues to recover from The Crisis, it provides a unique opportunity for dedicated and adventurous volunteers who are skilled in their respective fields to work alongside their local Bougainvillean counterparts to achieve locally-identified development goals. The



region is rich in culture and is unbelievably beautiful, with volunteers finding ample opportunities to immerse themselves in all aspects of the local environment.

VSA has been working in Bougainville since 1998, when it entered into Arawa towards the end of the conflict. In the years since, VSA has supported local organisations across a range of sectors including health, education, agriculture, and tourism. VSA has built a strong reputation in Bougainville, and is committed to continuing to work in the region.

8. Living and Working Situation

Arawa

Located in the Central Bougainville Region, Arawa was formerly the capital of the province. Prior to the Crisis, Arawa was lively and prosperous town that serviced the nearby Panguna Mine. In the 1970s and 1980s, Arawa peaked with a population of over 15,000 and included facilities such as a golf course, yacht club, and beach resort. Sadly the town suffered extensive damage during the Crisis, and has since been on a path of rebuilding. Today Arawa continues to grow, with the market and town centre being key areas for residents to meet and interact.

Arawa is situated on the coast with the Bovo and Tupukas Rivers running through the town. The lush forest-covered hills behind the town make for an impressive backdrop. The climate is warm and humid, with daily rains common.

The town is safe and locals are welcoming of VSA volunteers, who have been present in Arawa for 25 years. Many volunteers buy a bike and find this is a great way to get around the flat and well laid out town. Arawa is situated on a beautiful piece of coastline, and volunteers will often spend weekends out at a beach or island hopping out from town. There are also a number of beautiful waterfalls and rivers in the hills behind town that are safe for swimming in.

The town is well serviced with a range of stores selling most food items, a great market with fresh fruit, vegetables, and seafood, as well as a bank, chemist, and a couple of guesthouses which also serve as restaurants and bars.

Arawa is located in the middle of Bougainville, roughly halfway between the northern town of Buka and the southern town of Buin. Travel to the other towns can take 3 to 4 hours depending on the state of the roads. There are publicly available vehicles that drive the unsealed highway everyday that cost roughly \$30NZD. Bougainville's main airport is located in Buka, with flights running most days of the week. Arawa is serviced by a sealed airport 25kms to the south, where flights run once a week to Port Moresby and Rabaul.

PNG Power (a private company) provides electricity to Arawa via diesel generators. Inconsistent fuel supply means that blackouts are common, and can last for a number of days. VSA has a generator at the Arawa housing for conservative use during blackout periods to run water pumps and charge phones.

Digicel and Telikom offer mobile phone and 3G (mostly) internet services. Telikom has recently introduced very competitive internet and rates and a 4G Lite internet service, however, Digicel has the most extensive coverage in Bougainville.

Arawa has a number of churches of Catholic, Seventh Day Adventist, Methodist and Evangelical faiths and these are well attended. During the sports season, the local field is a busy place on a Sunday afternoon with football and volleyball games.

There is one public hospital at Buka and two major health centres, one at Arawa and the other at Buin. There is a doctor at both Buka Hospital and the Arawa Health Centre. Otherwise, there are smaller health centres and aid posts scattered around the islands.



